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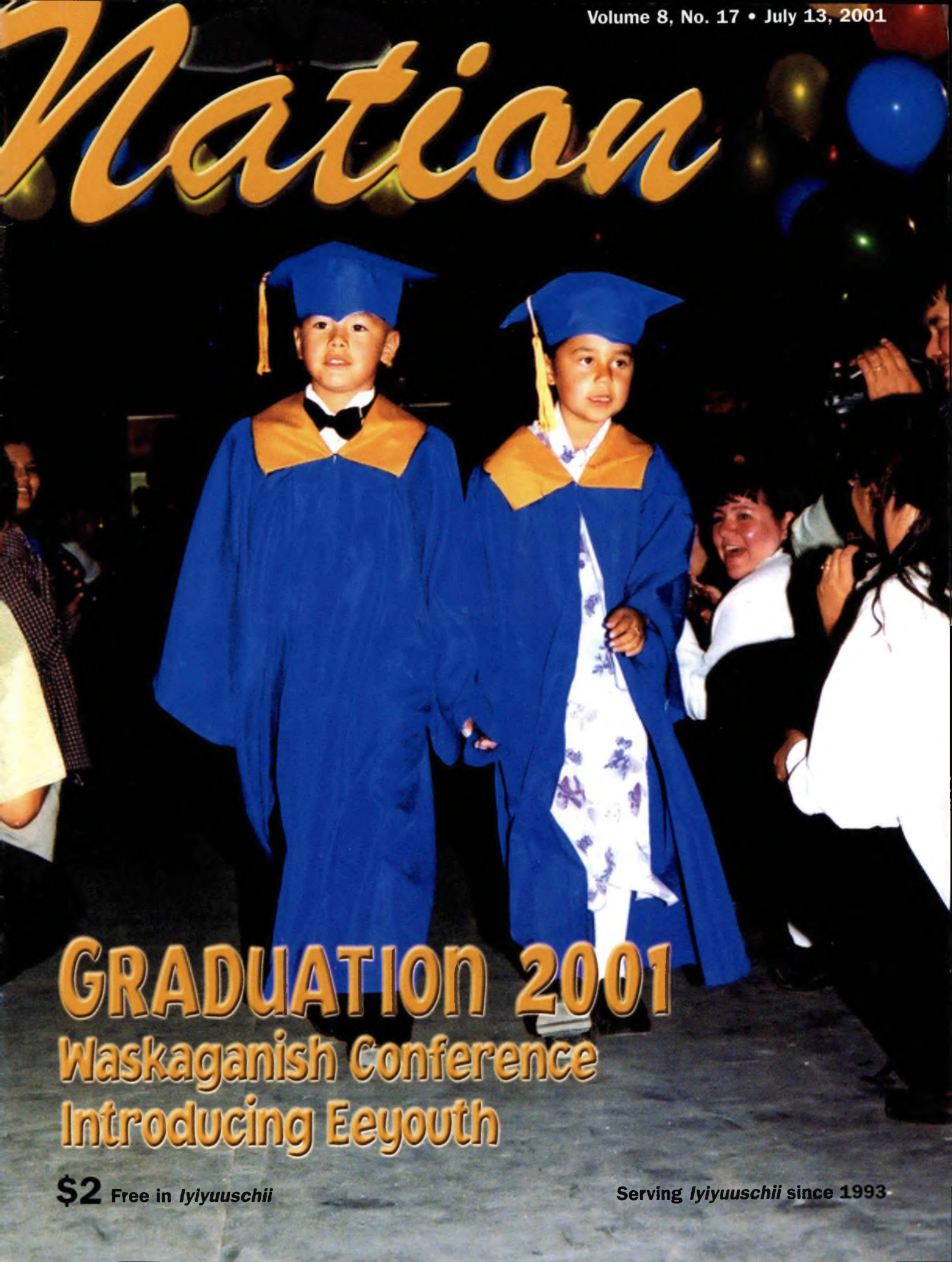
Nation



GRADUATION 2001

Waskaganish Conference

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Assembly of the
First Nations
of Quebec
and Labrador

On Wednesday August 8, 2001; we will host the First Aboriginal Provincial Public Speaking Contest (Open to all delegates, Observers with open topics) A gala evening with entertainment.

Rassemblement des jeunes des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador

First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Youth Gathering

Waswanipi, 7, 8 et 9 août 2001

Waswanipi, August 7, 8 and 9 2001

Rassemblement des
jeunes des Premières
Nations du Québec et
du Labrador

First Nations of
Quebec and Labrador
Youth Gathering

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Première Nation Crie
de Waswanipi

Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi

POUR INFORMATIONS :

FORUM DES JEUNES DE L'ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR YOUTH FORUM

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We Need More Federal Paternalism... Everywhere

Yes, that's right I think we need more of that old time Federal paternalism and I think the role of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs should be expanded.

Poor old Nault is increasingly coming under fire for his role in putting the Aboriginal community of Pikangikum under third party management. Basically, this means that they have mismanaged funds that are supposed to help their community and there are the high suicide rates to consider. In his role as Minister he is responsible for the well-being of Aboriginal communities and peoples everywhere and he did not have a choice in this matter. Just as he did not have a choice in putting 183 Aboriginal communities under remedial management plans. Some of them are under recipient-managed plans (where they provide a deficit-reduction plan that is approved by the Minister), co-management (where the First Nation hires an outside management firm with the approval of Indian Affairs) and the dreaded third party management (where Indian Affairs hires an outside firm which holds all of the bands money and has the sole authority to disperse it.)

All of this is done under rules, which I might add existed before the Minister came to office and he must abide by them.

Basically, a First nations Band, when receiving monies, must: give services and programs comparable to other levels of government, provide Indian Affairs and Band Members with an audit and must not exceed a cumulative deficit of more than 8% of its operating budget.

Yes, there must be rules for our wayward Aboriginal brothers. After all, how else will they learn to survive in the real world? The real world like Toronto with its $4 billion budget and $1.8 billion projected deficit. Oops, isn't that a little over the 8% restriction placed on First Nations by Indian Affairs? Why, yes it is, but non-Abriginal places like Toronto are allowed a 25% deficit. I guess the non-Aboriginal peoples have learnt to handle losing money better than the First Nations and are allowed more leeway.

Since Toronto seems to be going over the 25% mark anyhow why don't we expand the Indian Affairs Department to bring that errant non-Aboriginal community under control. I mean look at the crime rate in Toronto and the amount of complaints we hear about the services being poorer now. Something needs to be done and Indian Affairs with its record on remedial management plans is the experienced tool of choice for the job.

And didn't the Quebec government hold back on using hundred's of millions of dollars of health care money one year or so past? A clear case of fiscal mismanagement of funds that were supposed to benefit the members of the band... er I mean Quebec citizenry. It's time for the Naultster and his band of merry bean counters to impose third party management as far as I am concerned.

And as you look across this great land of ours the examples of this type of behavior are numerous and widespread. It is time for Indian Affairs to take matters in hand, a heavy hand I would say and right the wrongs being done to all citizens of the state. Yes, it's time to make us all wards of the State, not just Aboriginal Peoples. There's a whole group of other ethnics and non-ethnics out there who need the righteous and firm assurance that accountability is not just for the First Nations.

Gathering Strength indeed, my brothers and sisters!

by Will Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

Waswanipi Graduates
Photographer: Neil Diamond
Cover Design: Mona Laviolette

Rez notes

SONNY ORR

The One and Lonely Down Under

It's been some time since I started going to school, at the tender age of six, at Horden Hall in Moose Factory in the early 'sixties. I was a model student and getting into trouble only a few times a year, like setting off the fire extinguisher in grade four at St. Phillips or faking my book report in Grade ten (I got an A for that). Then the big day arrived and we left for Hull, Quebec, to do Secondary V. I lost all sense of educational values and opted for the city lights instead of studying. I knew everything, of course, and did all my homework before going home and my landlady stopped pressuring me to do my homework, because I'd take off for Ottawa.

This hampered my education process somewhat because by the end of the school year and around exam time I didn't pass the written and oral French exams and had to return in the fall to redo them, and still couldn't pass the oral tests. I then continued my life by entering CEGEP and taking a stab at University, but that elusive 3 credits for French was needed for passing. Apparently, I needed some English credits too.

About twenty years later, after forgetting about school and working hard at surviving, I rediscovered those missing credits and decided to get it over with once and for all. I studied at home and went and did my exam in the office of the principal of Sabtuan, Guy Mercier. I wrote and spoke French and submitted my twenty page thesis on the life and style of Steve Urkel of Family Matters, which was my assignment for the year. It was by far the hardest assignment in my life, having to watch Urkel and his senseless antics for nine months. Having to watch television as part of schooling somehow took the fun out of the show.

I did pass with flying colours and actually got to partake in my graduation at the tender age of thirty five. I never ever did see any of my other classmates throughout that year and I wondered who they were. I went and rented a tuxedo for the day and everyone thought I looked like a million bucks, but I could see that they needed glasses.

I think that graduation day is special for everyone who goes through that process. Now I can say that I know how you feel when you receive your diploma. I feel a little bad for waiting that long to get it, but it was worth it.

Life is full of exams, tests and learning experiences. For example, I have to do the first written driving exam of my life and I admit, I'm a little nervous. I remember when I got my driver's license by going to the police station in Fort George and asking for a form to fill out. Forty five dollars and six weeks later, I got my drivers license. I could drive! Legally! The only problem was, Fort George is an island and there weren't any roads leaving town. I can safely say that I can still get out of any sandpit, hole, deep snow drift and drive off road with a one wheel drive vehicle due to those years of driving around Fort George.

Then the ice bridge was created, during the winter months, to access the James Bay highway, which ended at Kanamskach where I drove for the first time on pavement. I remember renting my uncle's car one fine summer day and crossing the river by ferry and driving down past LG-2 and its formidable gate, where you had to have a pass with your picture on it. One of my aunts, who came for the ride, pointed out the speed limits of 100 km/h. I was driving an older vehicle that had only miles per hour indicated and wasn't really too familiar with the metric system, so I slowly sped up to a hundred miles per hour. I continued at the same pace all the way to Val d'Or and I have to admit, I never did get to drive at that speed ever again on a highway in Quebec. I don't think I'll share that story with my driving instructor during my exam.

Whatever exam, trial or tribune one must go through in life, just do the best you can and even if you make mistakes , how else are you going to learn. And for all those older geezers who used to be in my class, don't give up either at getting your high school diploma, because I tell you, it's worth it.

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Crees Refuse HQ Partnership Deal

by Derek MacLeod
The Portage

Photo: Ian Diamond (The Portage)

The sight of paddles held high in defiance by Crees was not a response that Thierry Vandal, Hydro-Quebec's Executive Vice President-Generation, was likely hoping for. The assembled crowd of Crees in the Waskaganish Gathering Place stood and applauded loudly as thirty of the community's members paraded through the facility's gymnasium. It was an obvious and resounding "NO!" to HQ's proposed multi-million dollar partnership deal. Said Cree Grand Chief Ted Moses, "these people expect to see that youngster," referring to a young Cree child dressed in traditional Cree garb that followed the paddle-armed protesters, "to grow up and enjoy the land, and the fruits of the land." With that, Moses summed up the feelings of the Crees towards HQ's latest offering.

Following Vandal's presentation to a who's who cast of Cree politicians attending the Cree Nation Natural Resource Development Conference, the group filed into the gymnasium to show their disapproval of the proposed diversion of the Rupert River. The protesting ensemble included Crees who have traveled the Rupert River, retracing historical trade and travel routes used by their ancestors for millennia. Following a distinguished Cree Elder were a number of those he had guided on an annual 400 km expedition up and downstream the free flowing Rupert. The act demonstrated that the possibility of any deal being struck would be almost impossible.

When requested to step into a canoe that had been carried in by the protesting group, Vandal reluctantly obliged. Local Cree Trapper's Association Program Officer, George Katapatuk then made it obviously clear that the end result of the Rupert River diversion would be equally comparable to Vandal's present circumstance. "You cannot paddle that canoe," Katapatuk said "because there is no water." The effect and implication was very clear.

The deal itself, Vandal explained, involved an estimated $110 million in direct payments from HQ to the Crees over a ten year period and upwards of $900 million in spinoff revenue over a 60 year period. Some of this would include: direct compensatory payments to the Crees most affected by the proposed diversion scheme; spinoff contracts and employment; the creation of a remedial work fund; and revenue sharing.

Under the JBNQA, HQ must seek the consent of the Cree people before proceeding with any new projects within Cree territory. The proposal involves the partial diversion of the Rupert River into the existing EM-1 Reservoir. Although, Vandal admits, there has not been a full study on the outcome and effects of the project, once Cree consent has been given, a full HQ study would then be carried out.

Cree consent requires the approval of all Crees, especially the tallymen and trappers. Their approval is the key to the deal. It is the tallymen that will be most affected by the proposed diversion and damming activities. HQ estimates that close to 360 km2 would be affected by the new project - land currently occupied and in use by the tallymen and their families. Although HQ did not confirm the compensatory amounts that would be paid out to the trappers, the proposal outlines $60 million in financial compensation to the Cree communities, financial compensation to the trappers, and financial support for the Crees to continue to carry out their traditional activities.

The key component to the deal involves a partnership between the Crees and HQ. The total investment for the Rupert Diversion is $1.25 billion. The Crees 15% investment of $187.5 million would be fronted by HQ in "mortgage-type" financing and would be reimbursed over a 50-year period. The Rupert Diversion portion of the proposal would generate an estimated $149.2 million in revenues annually. The Crees, under the proposal, would be entitled to $22.4 million a year. After their annual repayment of the fronted "mortgage loan" the Cree investment dividend would amount to an annual revenue share of $6.2 million.

Although HQ officials stated that this proposal would revolve around previous discussions that had taken place between the Crees and HQ, Grand Chief Ted Moses was quick to point out that this proposal would not be viewed as part of any previous talks. "This project is a new project. This is not the EM-1 project that is discussed in the JBNQA," declared Moses. Under the JBNQA the development of any new projects on Cree territory requires unanimous Cree consent. It would appear that, at least for now, the answer is NO!

The Conference not only discussed HQ's proposal but many other issues facing the Crees such as forestry operations on Cree lands and offshore island negotiations with the Nunavut and Northwest Territories governments.

Photo: Ian Diamond (The Portage)

The Chisasibi Cree Nation
would like to congratulate
all of this year's
Cree graduates on
their success and
wishing you the best
in your future endeavors!

Cree Nation of Chisasibi

Cree Nation
of Chisasibi

Well Done Grads

Concordia University
The Centre for Native Education

McGill University
The First Peoples' House

would like to extend
our best wishes
to all our Cree graduates.

Roberta Neacappo
Graduate Diploma Adult Education

Lorraine Spencer
M Ed Counselling Psychology

Beulah Sutherland
BA Applied Social Sciences

Sylvia Watso-Bearskin
BA French Studies: Translation

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK IN ALL YOUR ENDEAVORS!

The Whapmagoostui First Nation would like to congratulate the following students on their successful completion of their secondary studies from Badabin Eeyou School;

Lorrianne Kawapit, Jessica George, Pat Ekomiak, Benjamin Masty, Patrick Mamianskum, and Melvin Natachequan.

Best wishes and good luck to each and every one of the graduates in their future aspirations and goals.
We would also like to congratulate Maggie George in attaining her Bachelor of Education Degree from McGill University.

Congratulations

on the successfull completion
of your studies

Good luck
from the
Nemaska First Nation.

Negotiator Appointed For Residential School Lawsuits

The Canadian government has appointed a senior public servant to negotiate cost-sharing arising from lawsuits filed against Ottawa and four Christian churches by former residential school students.

Jack Stagg was named negotiator by the Prime Minister's Office and is accountable directly to the offices of Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray. Mr. Stagg met last month with representatives of the United, Presbyterian, Anglican, and Roman Catholic churches, assuring them that he did not represent the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs or the Department of Justice. The churches have been informed, for the first time, that the government is prepared to negotiate responsibility for damage claims being brought by former students. The churches have been facing potential bankruptcy over the mounting costs of litigation. The Anglican Church alone is looking at legal fees estimated at $100,000 a month.

Mr. Stagg was one of the senior negotiators in the Mi'kmaq fishing dispute in Burnt Church, New Brunswick last year. He has held the posts of associate deputy minister of Fisheries and Oceans and assistant deputy minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. Talks have been scheduled to take place throughout the summer.

2nd Annual OAPRA

Nominations from the public for the second annual Ontario Aboriginal Partnerships Recognition Award (OAPRA) are now open. The award was established by the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat with the assistance of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

"The award recognizes the Aboriginal and corporate leaders who are building partnerships that remove barriers, improve access and create job opportunities for Aboriginal communities in Ontario. We are pleased to be partners with the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation for the Ontario *Aboriginal Partnerships Recognition Award,*" said David Young, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs.

The Award is presented annually to celebrate successful Ontario-based partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal businesses, communities, and organizations. Partnerships must be Ontario-based and at least two years old. Any Aboriginal or Canadian may nominate individuals providing they meet criteria that includes increasing job opportunities for Aboriginal people, providing learning and training opportunities for Aboriginal people, or establishing a new Aboriginal owned business. The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has a brochure available with details of the full criteria.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, September 4, 2001. Award recipients will be announced at the Aboriginal Economic Development Conference in Toronto, on November 22, 2001. For further information, visit the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Web site at www.naaf.ca.

Billions For High-speed Net Access:

A recent report by the government-appointed Broadband Task Force suggests that the ambitious proposal of linking all Canadians to high-speed Internet services by the year 2004 could run as high as $4.57 billion. The panel, comprised of 34 members, sees the government as the key player in this project, as much of the necessary expense will not be feasible for the private sector. Estimated costs include: $1.3 - 1.9 billion to link communities currently lacking commercial service; $500 - 600 million to connect public institutions such as schools, libraries, and health centres; $50 - 70 million for individual and group skill training; $900 million - $2 billion to connect homes and businesses within communities to the network. The total estimate comes in at $1.85 billion for basic service and $4.57 billion for comprehensive service, with public money picking up most of the tab.

by Brian Zelnicker

Ex-Mohawk Cop Guilty of Fraud

Barry Commando, former chief of the aboriginal police force in Kanesatake, has been found guilty on two charges of fraud and theft. Commando, who was chief of the first all-aboriginal police force in Kanesatake from it's inception in 1997 until his firing in January 1999, had been charged with multiple counts of fraud and theft, but was acquitted of seven charges connected to expense-account irregularities. The former police chief, 39, was tried in Quebec Court in Saint-Jerome and found guilty of cheating his Mohawk-council employers out of $1229.78 in personal car rental and gas expenses that he billed to Kanesatake. Commando had claimed that the charges were politically motivated to remove him from office, but Quebec Court Judge Michel Duceppe ruled that the discovery of altered documents proved an intent to fraud. While the total amount of the fraud was negligible, Commando was held accountable for abusing his position as a police officer. He is to be sentenced on October 22.

R.I.P. Mordecai

Montreal author, columnist, wit, man about town, and scourge of Quebec separatists, Mordecai Richler is dead.

Richler passed away the day after Canada Day, July 2nd. He was best known for his novel "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz." He also wrote the screenplay of the same name and earned an Academy Award for it. He gained notoriety in Quebec when

con't on page 9

POTENTIAL GRADUATES 2000-2001 (HULL – OTTAWA)

December 2000 (6)

Joseph Blackned°	Algonquin College	G.A.S.
Mary MacLeod	Ottawa U	B.A. Soc
Mary Shern	Simon Fraser	Post B.A. Certif. Communications
Josephine Sheshamush°	Lakehead U	B.A. Indigenous Learning
Mary Louise Snowboy	Ottawa U	B. Sc. Nursing
Reggie Tomatuk°	Sir Sandford Fleming	Fish & Wildlife Technique

Cree School Board

Post-Secondary Montreal

By August 2001

Algonquin College (12)

Lillian Blackned	Desktop & Office Admin. General
Marc Blackned°	Carpentry
Christine Duff	Office Administration
Melissa Etapp	G.A.S.
Anthony MacLeod	Business Admin. Finance
Cheryl Moar	Desktop & Office Administration
Miriam Moar	G.A.S.
Anthony Moses	Desktop Publishing
Dawn Ottereyes Lacasse	Aboriginal Studies Certificate
Jerry Rupert	Carpentry
Valerie Shecapio°	Office Admin. Executive
Jacqueline Voyageur	Office Admin. Legal & Executive

University of Ottawa (1)

Cynthia McKee	B.A. Canadian Studies

La Cite Collegiale (1)

Maggie Voyageur Loon	Admin. Bureau admin.

Heritage College (5)

Sandra Dixon°	Office Systems Tech.
Nancy Head	Social Science
Shirley Matoush	Social Science
Shelley Sam	Office Systems Tech.
Valerie Sam	Office Systems Tech.

Laurentian University (2)

Lauretta McKenzie°	B.S.W. Native Human Services
Kelly Pepabano	B.S.W. Native Human Services

° confirmation of graduation received

Carleton University (2)

Irene Bosum Quinn	B.A. Law
Stephanie Georgekish	B.A. History

Canadore College (11)

Lois Blackned°	Native Soc. Service Worker
Patrick Chakapash	Marine & Small Engines
Darlene Diamond	G.A.S.
Rosie Loon Gunner	Office Systems
Donny Murdoch	Heavy Duty Mechanic
Marilyn Spencer Pachano	Office Admin. Gen.
Florence Peace	Native Social Science Worker
William Peace	Aircraft Maintenance
Tommy Pepabano	Heavy Duty Mechanic
Ernie Rabbitskin	G.A.S.
Nancy Voyageur	Native Social Service Worker

Cambrian College (4)*

Charlie Alisappi	Civil Engineer Tech.
Ricky Angatookaluk	Microcomputer Maintenance
Angel Moar	Hotel & Restaurant Management
Everett Morrison	Music

Northern College (9)

Erica Atsynia	Office Admin. General
Laura Jonah	G.A.S. Certif.
Celina Katapatuk	G.A.S. Certif.
Kelly Kitchicapp	Aboriginal Teaching Asst.
Merle Linklater	Heavy Duty Mechanic
Thomas Mistacheesick	Carpentry
Shirley Moar°	G.A.S. Certif.
Florence Visitor	G.A.S. Diploma
Ricky Visitor	Carpentry

Congratulations! Grads

con't from page 7

he published a harsh critique of the province's language laws in The New Yorker magazine.

Richler was born and grew up in 1930's Montreal. His experiences on St. Urbain Street provided fodder for his brilliant novels, St. Urbain's Horseman, Joshua Then and Now, Barney's Version and others.

His razor sharp wit, which he used on any who were unfortunate enough to cross him, will be missed. Quebec politicians were "twits." Native writers were "aboriginal good spellers." But Richler was fair and ridiculed himself as being, "famous internationally, all across Canada."

Mordecai Richler was 70 years old. He died of cancer.

Don't Try This At Home

Redefining the world of competitive eating, 23 year-old Takeru Kobayashi of Japan stunned spectators and competitors alike when he managed to wolf down an incredible 50 hot dogs in only 12 minutes at the 86th annual Nathan's Fourth of July hot dog eating contest at Coney Island, N.Y. Tipping the scale at a mere 131 pounds, Kobayashi obliterated the previous record of 25 hot dogs, having passed that mark in just five minutes, 13 seconds. While posing for cameras after the contest, the champ polished off another two dogs for dessert.

HEALTHY WELL WATER!

SAMPLING CAMPAIGN FOR PRIVATE WELLS OR SMALL WATERWORKS SYSTEMS

In Québec, water and your health are important to us. So, the Ministère de l'Environnement has set up a sampling program to monitor well water across Québec throughout the summer.

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What to do?

Order your free sampling kit from the Ministère de l'Environnement now. It contains the instructions you need to follow to take the required water samples. Once you have sent the samples to the participating accredited laboratory of your choice, they will be tested. As the owner, you are responsible for assuming the cost of $28.76 (including taxes) plus shipping fees.

Water testing is a smart investment... in your health!

To order your free sampling kit by August 31, 2001

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log on to: www.menv.gouv.qc.ca

Québec
Ministère de l'Environnement

QUÉBEC'S WATER A SOURCE OF PRIDE

SCHOOL'S OUT!

CLASS OF 2001

Graduating from high school is one of the most memorable events in someone's life. Emotions are thrown around like an old bag of potatoes. Waiting all summer for your final results to arrive can be the longest 2 months in a graduate's life. But when they do arrive and the grades are over 60%, often times, tears will drop from the corner of your eyes, your legs will tremble and your voice will be shaky. Do not try to speak or jump around when you find out you graduated. I am a graduate myself this year and the description of what I just said will be quite close to what you might feel. I suppose that some people are more emotional than others.

A graduation will most often be the one and only event in which a person will let his or her emotions go wild and not try to keep them deep within the soul where nobody will ever get a glimpse of them.

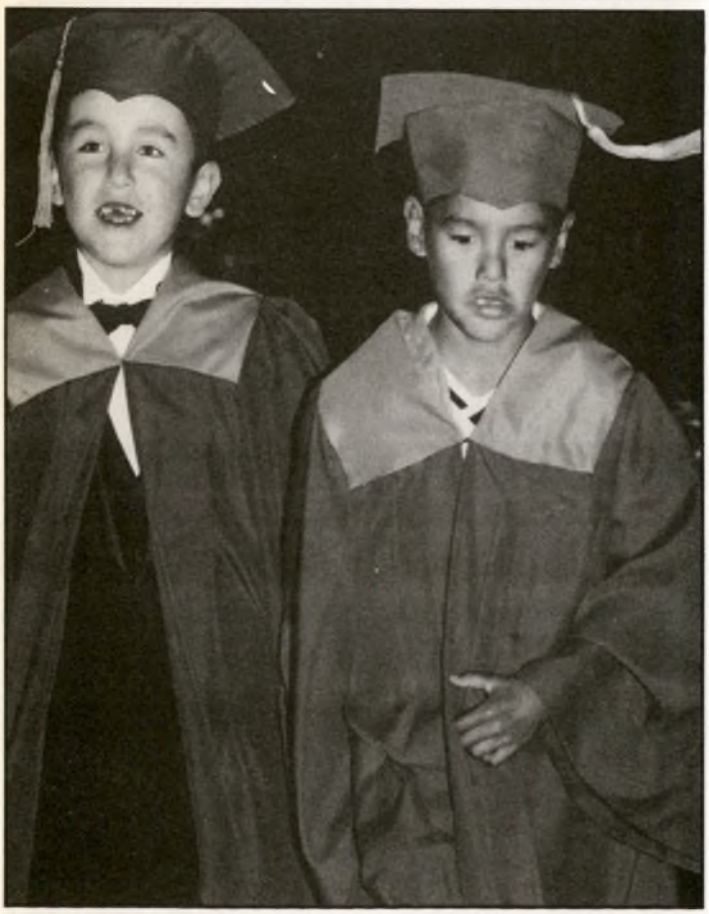
I think that it is important to show your true feelings at that point. It shows pride and joy. A lot of people will hide their emotions because they are afraid to cry in front of others. Crying is the feeling that shows happiness. People will understand that you are happy. Usually when you cry, you will not be alone because your tears of joy will also make tears appear on the cheeks of others. You are never alone.

I would like to take advantage of my position as junior journalist for The Nation to congratulate all the graduates of 2000-2001. It is a very big achievement for all of you and everyone is very proud of you. But you must realize that it is only the beginning of a new life. Some of you will go on to college; others will stay in their communities to help make it a better place for the future of the people. Some may want to start a family. What you do with your life from this point on will have a great effect on what your future has in store for you. Whatever path you choose to take, be assured, there will be people who are with you 110%. Although you may not realize it yet, the people who are closest to you right now and who care most about you might not be the people you think and wish they were, but they are there nonetheless.

Hopefully, all the graduates will move onto something bigger for themselves. Many doors have been opened now that you have graduated. Others are not quite opened, but easier to access. Make sure you don't choose the door with the man-eating tiger behind it. There may be no coming back on your footsteps. Make sure to analyze your options carefully, look over the consequences they will have on your immediate and long-term future. Never forget that you are young. You have a whole life ahead of you. Take your time. Do not rush yourself into anything. Do not let yourself get pushed around and told what to do. You and you only can decide your future. Peers, family, friends, girlfriends and boyfriends might try to help you make a decision. What you decide may be affected by those you love, but do not be fooled. Do what you think will be better for you in the long run. Do what is best for you, but try to think of the others at the same time. You must acknowledge how your friends and family will feel when you tell them your decision. Now do not completely make your decision on what others will feel. They'll understand why you are doing what you're doing and if they do not, take the time to explain it to them. It is important to make sure that everyone knows the reason for your decision.

In closing, I would like to mention all the graduates from the communities.

For those who didn't make it this year, maybe we'll be seeing your name in here next year. Work hard, study 3 hours a night and you'll make it for sure.



A PARENT'S PRIDE

CHRISTOPHER HERODIER

The evening of June 8, 2001, will always be remembered by me and my family. This was the evening that our oldest son, Christopher Junior, graduated from grade 12 at Ecole Theriault, in Timmins Ontario.

As a parent, the moment when your oldest graduates is indeed a proud one. It is an accomplishment that this boy made it to this level. Like any other teenager, he had his problems along the way. At one time, he just wanted to come home. He neglected to ask for help when he was having trouble with his schoolwork. I am sure that others have gone through the same experience, especially when many of our students are at schools in different parts of the province or country. You have to understand that my boy, at age 16, has accomplished something that many people will never experience, that is to receive a paper that recognizes his accomplishments. Although he is young, the road to get this piece of paper was not easy, and as parents, we had to talk to him many times to encourage him to keep going.

Coming from a small community and going south to go to school must have been scary at the beginning. I felt that loneliness when I first left to go to school at Philemon Wright in Hull, Quebec. This was at the beginning of the Cree School Board years. It may have been a little bit different, since there were many of us and we were able to speak our language and support each other. Christopher was the only Native student out of a student population of approximately 1200. Therefore, I am sure that Christopher has had some loneliness problems while at school. Although Timmins High is just across the street from many Ontario Crees, it was not always possible for him to go visit.

The graduating class for this year at Theriault had approximately 200 students. It was a long, 3-½ hour ceremony and we were tired, since we only arrived late the night before. We had to get up early since my wife and I did not have anything appropriate to wear for the ceremony. Sure we were tired, but we knew what we had to do to make this a memorable occasion, where our boy also needed appropriate attire for his special night. We were still running around at 6:00 PM, trying to find the right shoes for our boy, this is excruciatingly boring, since there are other things that one can do. However, this was made easier, knowing that the occasion was special.

Along with us for the ceremony were two of Christopher's friends, Hannah and Willie, very well mannered young people from Albany, Ontario. The ceremony was very long, especially when you have approximately 800 people crammed into an auditorium. In the end it was all worth it to witness one of your own receive a piece of paper recognizing the hard work he did throughout the year.

I want to say to all those students out there, that anything is possible when you work hard towards your goals. You will make mistakes like everybody else, but don't get discouraged, just work to correct them. I may sound like I am preaching, but that is not it. I have experienced both successes and failures in my life. I sometimes think about what I could have done, but I always remember that today is a new day, and this day is special. I am still feeling emotional as I write this piece - that is how proud I was of my son that evening. To all those who will be graduating this year, congratulations, and to all our students, wherever you may be, make us proud. Dreams can come true with some hard work and dedication. Meegwetch. Wachiya.

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Deputy Prime Minister
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Effect of the July tax cut for a double-income couple with two children

Annual Income	Income tax per two-week pay period[1]			
	June 2001	July 2001	Tax Cut July 2001	
$	$	$	$	%
35,000	16	0	16	100
50,000	150	114	36	24
100,000	601	532	69	11

1. Rounded off to the nearest dollar.

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Brian Brousseau

Allow me to present myself. I'm the new kid in town at The Nation.

My name is Brian Brousseau. I was born in Val-d'Or, Quebec during a snowstorm on December 3rd of 1982. My mother is Innu from Waswanipi and my father is French from Quebec. I was raised, until the age of 12, in a little village known as Val-Senneville. Those were some of the best times of my life. I grew up believing that I could do anything I want in the whole wide world, as my parents used to put it. I loved writing and drawing at a young age and since about the age of 15, I knew I wanted to do something that had to do with literature. When I started reading novels, I was inspired to become an author but as I grew older and matured, I realized that trying to help people was what I really wanted to do.

I graduated from high school at Golden Valley School this year. So many people were proud of me. I was delayed one year because I wasn't taking my studies serious enough. That year was a great lesson in life for me because now I know never to "take it easy" again. I knew what I'd done wasn't the best thing for me and I knew that no matter what I did, there was no way I could change that, but I had to accept the consequences of my mistake.

Today, I have been accepted into a college in Montreal and I am going to study to become either a psychologist or a journalist. I want to someday become a journalist for National Geographic. So if ever you see my name in that world-renowned magazine, you might remember me from my first articles in The Nation. When I finish my summer job at The Nation, I will begin my schooling at Dawson College. I will try to put my two passions together; writing and helping people solve their problems. I always wanted to make a difference in the world, but I can only take one small step at a time. By trying to help people overcome their problems, I will be changing the world ever so slightly. If, in my lifetime, I can change how people feel about themselves and others, my life will have been very fulfilling and I would not be ashamed of what I did, let alone what I didn't do. I will make my parents proud of me. I want to make sure that I succeed in what I do. And no matter what happens, I will always work at something I enjoy doing. That is something that everyone should work on. Making themselves happy with what they do and who they are.

In life, nothing is free but if you work hard enough for something you really want, then there is no doubt that you will grab hold of it with two firm hands and never let go. The greatest things in life are the things that you achieve all by yourself. That's what makes you proud. If something is handed to you without effort, yes you will be happy to get it but you won't feel the pride of obtaining it by yourself. You cannot rely on others to do what you want finished. Never make others do what you are not willing to do.

As you grow up you realize a lot of things about yourself. I realized that to do a good job, I have to do what I like because if that is not the case, then I would loosen up on my work and end up failing what I was trying to attain. That means much more than you might think. Letting people down can be one of the worst feelings that a person can experience. I highly doubt that anyone of you would want to let anyone down. If you have ever disappointed anyone for any reason, you know what I'm talking about.

Disappointing your parents might by some unfortunate chance happen to some of you. But let me tell you that when it does, do not fear that they will no longer care for you or love you. They will love you as much as ever and maybe even more. A mother or father's love for his children is greater than any other emotion. It is an infinite power.

Never give up hope for anything you believe in. Where there's a will, there's a way. Always remember that. When you feel you can no longer advance or take grasp of anything greater than what you have achieved, try harder. You will reach a higher goal. There is always more for you to learn and there are always people that want to be taught. Never underestimate yourself. Be proud of who you are and believe in yourself.

In the next few months, I plan on reflecting on situations that the youth going out into the world might encounter and how to deal with them. There is no wrong way to charge into the world. There are some things you might want to do and others you might not want to do. I wish to get feedback from the youth in the communities telling me about your experiences, I'm here to listen.

Contact me, Brian Brousseau at: Beesum@beesum-communications.com

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e-mail: NivenD@aol.com for information

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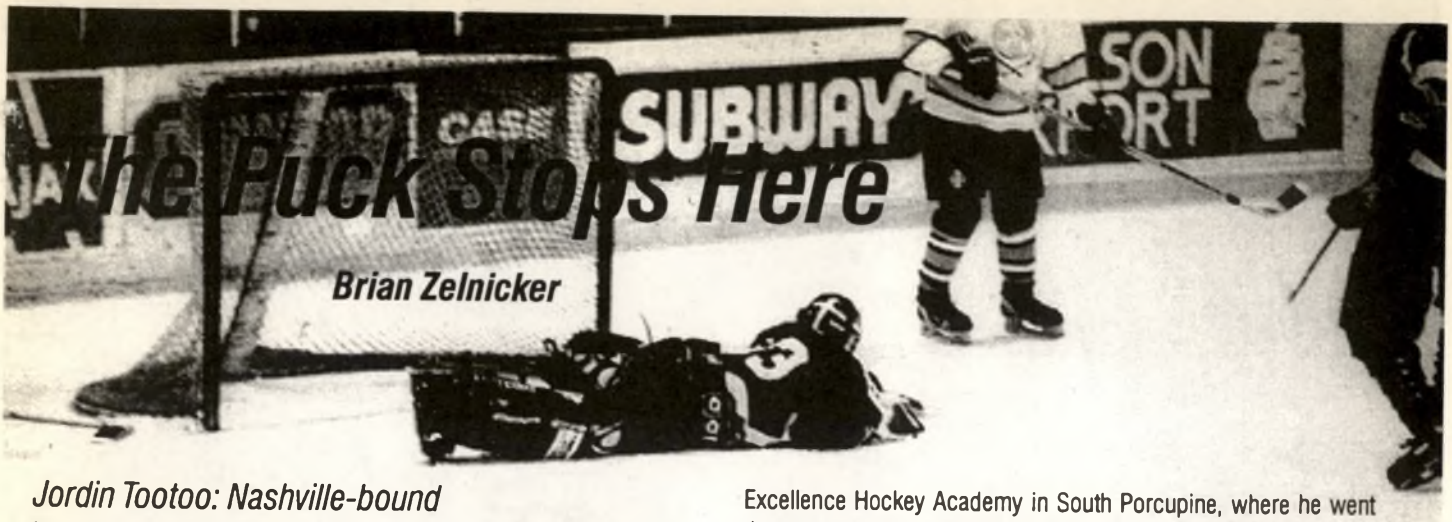

The Puck Stops Here

Brian Zelnicker

Jordin Tootoo: Nashville-bound

It's a long way from Nunavut to Tennessee. I don't anticipate too many folks from Nashville making the journey north, but there is at least one resident of Rankin Inlet who will be making the trip south to the land of the Grand Ole Opry. The Nashville Predators chose 18 year-old Jordin Tootoo in the fourth round of the 2001 NHL entry draft, making him the first ever player from the territory of Nunavut to be selected in the draft. Tootoo, at 5-foot-9, is small by current NHL standards but comes with a reputation for playing well above his size. His rise to being selected by an NHL team has been nothing short of meteoric. Having played only four years of organized hockey due to growing up in a town where there weren't enough young hockey players to organize a league, Tootoo has already amassed a tidy little portfolio of accomplishments. He was captain of the gold medal Canadian under-18 team at the 2000 Four Nations tournament in Slovakia. He played in last year's Top Prospects Game and won the hardest shot competition (96.1 mph). He's been named most popular player two years running for the Brandon Wheat Kings of the WHL, where he tallied 20 goals, 48 points, and an enthusiastic 172 penalty minutes.

It is unlikely that Tootoo will play in the NHL next year but, judging by the scouting report on the 98th pick over-all, he has a better than fair chance at a future in the big leagues. The youngster who grew up playing with his older brother Terence and his friends has been described by Central Scouting as " a strong skater with good acceleration, agility and balance." The report also noted that he handles the puck well, has a good hockey sense, plays well along the boards and in the corners, drives hard to the net, and is "one of the hardest bodycheckers in the league." What more could you ask of a player other than to strap on the pads and play some back-up goalie for the team? This guy would probably do it.

Waskaganish Teen Drafted Into QMJHL

Joshua Rathbone, of Waskaganish, was the third round pick of the Acadie-Bathhurst Titans of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL). The 16 year-old forward was drafted 34th overall at the QMJHL draft held last month in Montreal. The 6'2", 195 pounder, who played Bantam 'AA' last year for the Academy Bandits, was surprised to be drafted as high as the third round, not having expected to go higher than the fifth round. Originally a defenceman, Rathbone moved up to play forward this past season. The youngster has been working out daily in the gym and will be on the ice in Peterborough, Ontario, this month for a two-week conditioning camp at Roger Neilson's hockey school. Rathbone finished up his second season at the Peak to Excellence Hockey Academy in South Porcupine, where he went through an arduous training program before and after classes at Roland Michener Secondary School. The bandits played over 130 games last season and Joshua was on the ice daily. Drafted as a 16 year-old in the first five rounds, Rathbone is guaranteed a spot with the team in Bathurst, New Brunswick, next season. Waskaganish appears to be making inroads on the junior hockey scene as fellow community member Ryan Wiestche played as a rookie with the Ontario Hockey League's Soo Greyhounds last season.

A Funny Thing Happened on The way To The Forum

There was a time when the Montreal Forum rang with the shouts of "Bergeron Pourri! Bergeron Pourri!" This was when there was something called a rivalry. This particular rivalry was between the Montreal Canadiens and the Quebec Nordiques. Michel "le Tigre" Bergeron was the infamous coach of the Nordiques. It was war. Former unknowns like John Kordic were thrust into the spotlight and attained hero-status almost overnight. I can recall the image of the late enforcer taunting the deflated Quebec bench at the Forum after beating the tar out of the latest hired-gun brought up from the minors with the sole purpose of taking down Kordic and pumping up the Nordiques. Kordic would skate the length of the Nordiques bench, shrugging his shoulders at Bergeron and his crew, as if to say, "Who else have you got?" Basil McCrae, Gordie Donnelly, and Richard Zemlak are names that some fans today might not be familiar with, but these were the guys that had to do battle with Kordic, Chris Nilan, Dave Maley, Steve Rooney, and a host of other rugged Habs forwards in one of the fiercest rivalries imaginable.

Times have changed. The marketplace rules. Teams are now franchises. Players who attain free agency go where the money takes them. The cash-strapped teams lag behind as the big spenders open their wallets in a shameless feeding frenzy. Rivalries are a thing of the past. There are too many roster changes nowadays to maintain a line-up, let alone a rivalry. Players move on with no hard feelings all around, because it's not personal it's just business. Too bad, it was more interesting when it was personal. Beating the Nordiques was almost as important as winning the Stanley Cup. Every game between these teams was like a playoff game – and they played each other, to the death, eight times a year during the regular season alone. Now the Nordiques are but a memory, having relocated to Colorado, John Kordic has gone to the great sin bin in the sky, the Forum is a movie theater and the once mighty Canadiens have missed the playoffs three years on the trot - and counting.

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Any dancers interested in participating, please contact the Pow Wow Coordinator.
The first forty (40) dancers registered will receive an honorarium.

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CORRECTION

In the last issue of the Nation (Vol. 8, No. 16) the editorial on page three was incorrectly credited to Ingrid Newkirk.
The Nation apologizes for the error.

POTENTIAL GRADUATES 2000-2001 (HULL – OTTAWA)

By August 2001

Various Others (16)

Alice Bosum	Nat. Native Bible Coll.	Christian Leadership
Michelle King	Niagara College	Office Admin. Executive
Jeffery Kitty	Fanshawe College	Survey Tech.
Darren MacLeod	U. of Toronto	B. Arts&Sc. Pol. Sc.& History
Darrell McLeod°	Trebas Institute	Audio Engineer Tech.
Marilyn McLeod	Humber College	G.A.S.
Janet Napash	Lakehead U.	B.A.
Gordon Neacappo°	Loyalist College	Broadcast Journalism
Margaret Nine O'Clock°	Loyalist College	Broadcast Journalism
Margarety Orr	En'owkin Centre	Creative Writing Certif.
Marian Otter	SI.F.C.	Indian Commun. Certif.
Mary Shem	U.B.C.	M. Ed. (Aug)
Leslie Tomatuk	Sir Sanford Fleming	Correctional Worker
Daniel White	George Brown	Culinary Management & Baking Arts
Kathleen Wootton	McGill U.	M. Ed.

Cree School Board

Post-Secondary Montreal

(Montreal Section)

Student	School	Program/Degree	Grad Date
Chewanish, Barbara	Univ. de Montréal	Cert. Eng. Lang. & Culture	Dec. 2000
Taylor, Cynthia	McGill	BA Canadian Studies	Dec. 2000
Blacksmith, Caroline	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 2001
Blacksmith, Irene	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 2001
Coonishish, Shirley	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 200
Dixon, Jolina	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 200
Neeposh, David	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 200
Neeposh, Melanie	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 200
Petawabano, Crystal	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 200
Petawabano, Dale	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 200
Simard, Leah	C.E.C.C.	Transition	April 200
Murdoch, Paul John	McGill	Québec Bar	April 2001
Spencer, Lorraine	McGill	MA Counselling Psychology	April 2001
Neacappo, Roberta	Concordia	Adult Educ. Diploma	April 2001
Pérusse, Martin	Laurentian Aviation	Commercial Pilot	April 2001
Lachapelle-Bordeleau	Cegep Vieux-Mtl	DEC Sc. Humaines	May 2001
Marie-Eve	Cegep Vieux-Mtl	DEC Sc. Humaines	
Matoush, Juliana	John Abbott College	DEC Dental Hygiene	May 2001
Rondeau, Eric	John Abbott College	DEC Natural Science	May 2001
Reid, Melanie	Champlain College	DEC Tourism	May 2001
Marcotte, Karine	Cegep Rosemont	DEC Tech. de laboratoire	June 2001
Otter, Teddy	C.S. Marie Victorin	Dessin du bâtiment	June 2001

° confirmation of graduation received

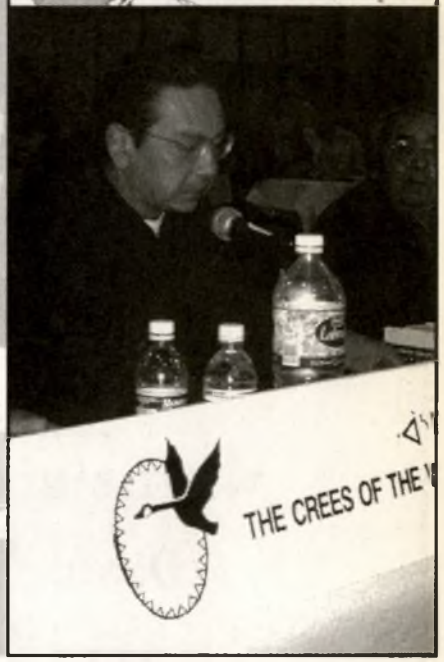
Congratulations! Grads

Summary of the Results of the Natural Resource Development Conference

June 21, 2001
Waskaganish

The following are the main points put forward at the Resource Development Conference workshops:

1. The Crees must continue to use the resources of Eeyou Istchee and to occupy Eeyou Istchee as we have always done.
2. In this regard we have outstanding issues concerning the size of Eeyou Istchee: a land base for the Ouje Bougoumou Crees, the status of the Washowsibi Community, the overlapping claims with the Inuit in the offshore, rights of the Crees in the Offshore, overlapping land rights with the Algonquins, Atikamek and Crees of Moose Factory.
3. In order to face the challenges to come in the future, we must decide upon and establish a strong mandate for the Cree Nation Government.
4. When we stand together we are strong as a People. Our unity is undermined when we do not maintain our relations with the governments and with promoters of projects or activities through the Grand Council of the Crees or future form of Cree Nation Government.
5. In order to work together we must share information and ensure that this is made available to individual Crees in the communities.
6. We must decide on a means for ensuring that the people in the communities are involved in any decisions that are to be made about resource development projects. Elders, Women, the Youth, the Ntohosowich and all Cree people must participate in these decisions. Moreover, the Cree people must be fully informed about such proposals and projects before being asked to make decisions about the land and its resources.
7. Any benefits or measures in jobs, economic opportunity, remedial works and compensation that might come from such projects must be shared by all of the Cree Nation. Moreover, such agreements must protect and expand Cree rights and presence and must not lead to a diminishment of Cree rights. Those communities and individuals who are most negatively impacted by such projects will be helped in ways to be decided by the Cree Nation, to find ways to recover from these impacts.
8. In order to protect our rights we must make the presence of the Crees on Eeyou Istchee an issue for all who come here to create projects. We must also impress upon the Governments of Canada and Quebec the enduring nature of our rights to the land and its resources. This must be done by making the Cree use and knowledge of the land a factor in all decisions concerning the land and resources. In addition, we must make the decision of the United Nations on the extinguishment clause in the Agreement an issue here in Canada and elsewhere and as an example of the prejudicial and illegal measures that Canada resorts to in order to dispossess aboriginal peoples of their rights to land.
9. Since we are the owners of the land and its resources, we must develop a protocol of the Cree Nation concerning how we protect and exersize our decision-making capacities over the lands and resources.
10. The trappers that are directly affected should be consulted (used on consultation basis) but not asked to make a decision. After consultation with the affected people there must be a collective decision if the project/proposals go ahead.
11. The trappers that are directly affected by resource development projects should be fully consulted on the nature of the project and on the nature of foreseeable impacts. However, the trappers should not be asked to make a decision alone. Rather, decisions on resources affect the Cree Nation and it is only on the basis of a national consultation and discussion that a collective decision should be made by the Crees.



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Cree Regional Authority
Administration regional Crie

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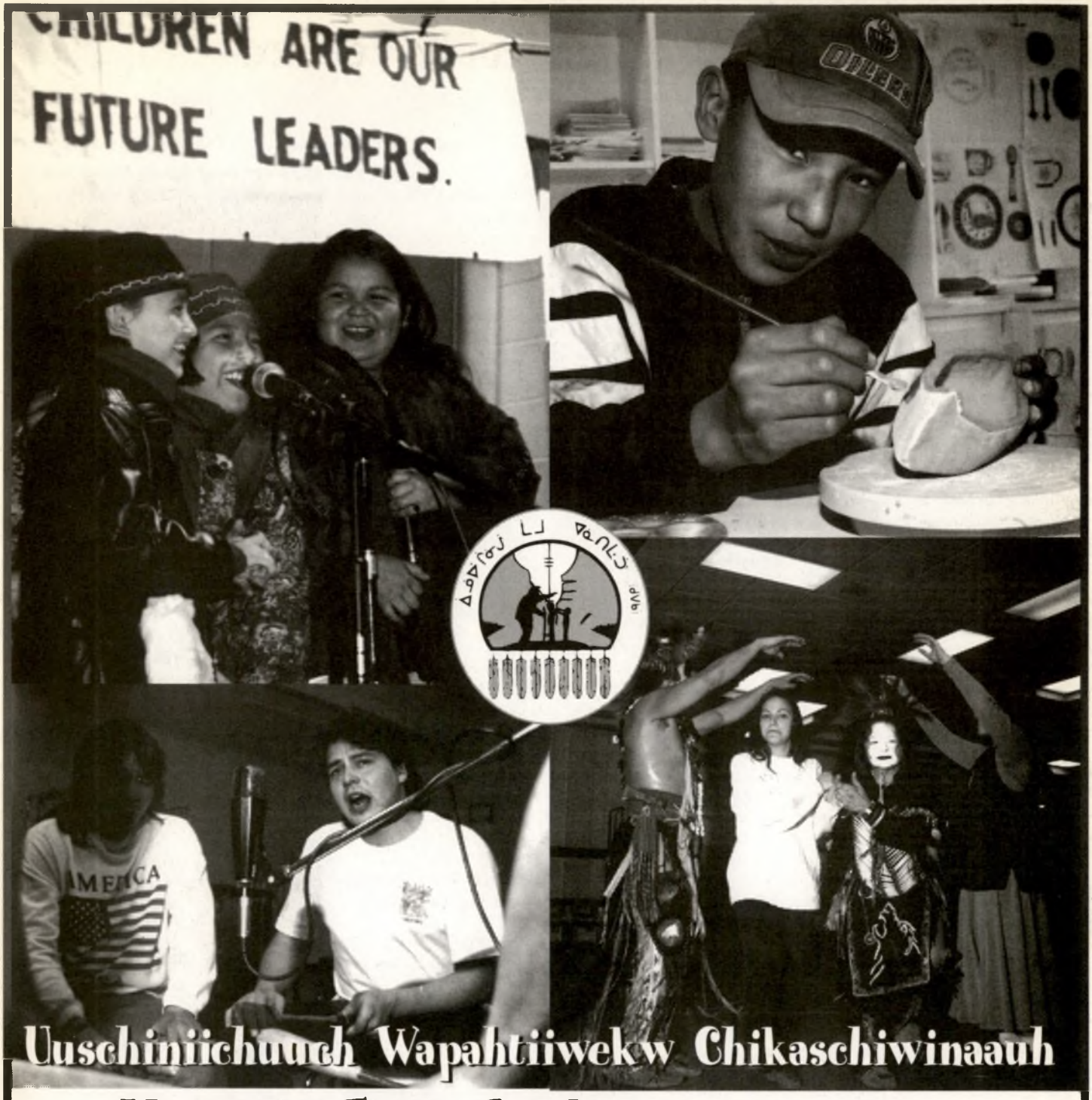
Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)



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Chisasibi **English Sector (3)**
Patrick Sam • Stanley Swallow • Bernice Tooktoo

French Sector (3)
Paula Menarick • Patricia Scipio • Ronnie Sealhunter

Mistissini **English Sector (4)**
Thomas Awashish • Nigel Adriel Bosum • Charlotte Coonishish • Winnie Trapper

Mistissini **French Sector (4)**
Noland Gunner • Christopher Matoush • Titus Mianscum Hattie-Rose Petawabano

Wakaganish **English Sector (11)**
Georgina Blackned • Murray Blackned • Betty Blueboy • Conrad Blueboy • Jessica Diamond • Colleen Hester • Suzanne Hester • Angeline McLeod • Jason Moses • Robert Stephen • Cynthia Wischee

French Sector (4)
Maureen Cowboy • Gilbert Georgekish • Bessie Gillis • Alice Gull • Percy Hester • Amy Jolly • Shawna Lameboy Theresa McLeod • Lenora Moar • Stephanie Moar

Whapmagoostui **English Sector (6)**
Pat Ekomiak • Jessica George • Lorrianne Kawapit • Patrick Mianscum • Benjamin Masty • Melvin Natachequan

Nemaska **English Sector (6)**
Shawn Coonishish • Albert Jolly • Raymond Jolly • Katrina Orr

French Sector (10)
Virginia Matoush • Priscilla Mettaweskum • Vanessa Mettaweskum • Natasha Moar • Kenneth Tanoush • Gabriel Tanoush • Nicole Tanoush • Jessica Wapachee • Priscilla Wapachee • Annie Wapachee

Waswanipi **English Sector (6)**
Michael Blacksmith • Jonathan Happyjack • Abraham Icebound • Jeremy Tommy Jolly • Sherwin John Martin

French Sector (10)
Desiree Blacksmith • Lee-Roy Blacksmith-Polson • Jeremy Dixon • Travis Grant • Juanita Jamie Gull • Gloria Happyjack • Joni Saganash

Graduates: 2000-2001

Certificate in First Nations and Inuit Education
Mary Brien-Coonishish • Victoria Katapatuk-Hester • Susie Matoush • Lina Petawabano-MacLeod • Greta Whiskeychan-Cheechoo

Bachelor of Education
Annette Neeposh

Bachelor of Education
Maggie George, Whapmagoostui

Certificate in Education
Susan George-Scipio, Chisasibi
Jennifer Hester-Moses, Waskaganish
Evelyn Blackned Munroe, Waskaganish
Pauline Dixon-Gull, Waswanipi

Secondary School Diplomas

Mistissini

English Sector
Mistissini English Sector
Ms. Caroline Voyageur • Ms. Bella M. Trapper • M. Leslie Loon

French Sector
Ms. Cathy Metabie • Mrs. Natalie J. Iserhoff • M. Albert Matoush• M. Simon Metabie

Ouje-Bougoumou English Sector
Ms. Weena Bosum

Waswanipi English Sector
Mrs. Linda I. Cooper • Ms. Emily Matoush • M. Daniel Icebound

Best of Success Graduates of 2001

The Cree School Board

Community Graduation 2000-2001 (Inland Communitie)

Mistissini (31)

General Education: English Upgrading
Caroline Voyageur • Leslie Loon • Bella M. Trapper

General Education: French Upgrading
Cathy M. Metabie • Simon Metabie • Albert Matoush
Natalie Jolly-Iserhoff

Heavy Equipment Mechanics
Clarence.W. Rabbitskin • David Mattawashish •
James Jolly • Rene S. Coon-Come • Jerry Matoush

Preparation for College
Rosanna Blacksmith • Lydia Iserhoff • Elsie M. Neeposh
Linda Neeposh • Queenie Neeposh • Benjamin Petawabano

Starting a Business
Zoe Allayne-Voyageur • Robert Shecapio • Linda Neeposh
Benjamin Loon

Truck Driving Class 1
Norman Coonishish-Coon • Emmett Coonishish

Heavy Equipment Operator
Jacob Blacksmith • Wasesquin Gunner • Jonathan
Neeposh • Norman Elijah Neeposh • Shaun Neeposh
Uriah Neeposh • LeeRoy Petawabano

Ouje-Bougoumou (8)

General Education: English Upgrading
Weena Bosum

Truck Diving Class 1
James Wapachee • Joel Benjamin

Office Automation
Randa Kakegamic • Margaret M. Cooper • Tracy Howson

Heavy Equipment Operator
Allan Gull • Larry Salt

Waswanipi (14)

General Education: English Upgrading
Linda I. Cooper • Emily Matoush • Daniel Icebound

Starting a Business
Claude Blacksmith

Heavy Equipment Operator
Adam Gull

Professional Cooking
Rose Bowen • Caroline C. Dixon • Diana Iserhoff-Gull
Henry Gull • Kimberly Gull • Cecile Happyjack •
Shannon Isik • Louise Matoush • Julie Moore

Nemaska (5)

Northern Build. Maintenance
Jonathan Jolly • John Wapachee • Joseph Jolly •
David Wapachee • Norman Jolly

Chisasibi (16)

General Education: French Upgrading
Winnie Scipio • Elizabeth Matches

Office Automation
Betsy Benjamin-Scipio • Patricia Matthew •
Phyllis Matthew Pachano • Christine Chakapash-Bearskin •
Norma Pepabano-Spencer

Data Processing
Doris Duff • Daiy Fireman • Alice Kitty-Sam •
Sherry Spencer-Grant

Starting a Business
Daisy Fireman • Sherry Spencer-Grant • Darren Budgell

Truck Driving Class 1
Gordon Pachano • Robert Snowboy

Whapmagoostui (7)

Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Sinclair Gilpin • Simon Kawapit • Gabriel Masty •
Steven Masty • Willie Novalinga • Lindy Rupert

Truck Driving Class 1
Jeffrey Petagumskum

Wemindji (4)

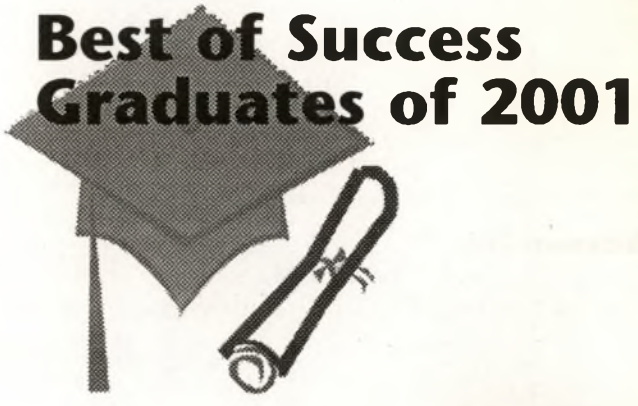
Vocational: Starting a Business
Wilfred Georgeskish • Natalie Linklater • Johnny Mark

Truck Driving Class
Barnabus Georgekish

Waskaganish (2)

General Education: French Upgrading
Peter John Weistche

Truck Driving Class
Oliver Moar



The Cree School Board

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Government of Canada has made changes to Employment Insurance (EI) to support Canadian families and to ensure that Canadians who need EI will have access to an improved program.

WHAT'S NEW

- There is no more intensity rule.* Now all EI claimants will receive at least 55% of their maximum insurable earnings. Retroactive to October 1, 2000.
- The benefit repayment (clawback) provision is no longer applicable for claimants who receive maternity, parental and sickness benefits, first-time claimants and claimants who make less than $48,750 net annual income. Retroactive to the 2000 taxation year.
- Parents who took extended absences from the workforce to care for young children may now be able to qualify for EI regular benefits like other workers. Retroactive to October 1, 2000.
- Self-employed fishers can now benefit fully from the changes made to maternity, parental and sickness benefits. Retroactive to December 31, 2000.

AUTOMATIC RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS

Since mid-June, Human Resources Development Canada has been automatically issuing retroactive payments for adjustments to EI claims affected by the changes. The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency will forward retroactive payments for clawback (2000 taxation year) automatically in about two months.

* The intensity rule, which gradually reduces the basic benefit rate of 55% to 50% for frequent EI users, proved to be ineffective and was removed.

For a brochure on EI changes call toll-free

1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)

or visit our Web site at: www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

Users of TTY/TTD devices dial: 1 800 465-7735

Human Resources Development Canada / Développement des ressources humaines Canada

Canada

Larger Than Life

Xavier Kataquapit

In my home community of Attawapiskat in James Bay I remember hearing about people discovering tracks left by some large creature or animal. Usually these discoveries were made far away from the community and found by trappers and hunters out on the land. As soon as the story of large footprints hit town the rumor mill was cranked up a few notches. In a short while fear and apprehension gripped the community. Every time one of these sightings occurred it reminded local people of past sightings and legends handed down by our elders of large creatures and beings of long ago.

One series of stories has to do with 'Wahchoskocho'. This story or legend is based on humans who may have been hunters or trappers that stayed out on the land too long. Over time it was thought that they became hermits and made great efforts to stay away from other human beings. These stories really refer to disturbed humans who in some cases also were very big people. It wouldn't take much for such a sighting to take on greater than life proportions and the mysterious Wahchoskocho was born. To further enhance the horror of Wahchoskocho, it was claimed that these creatures actually hunted other humans for food. I wonder if some of this phenomena is based on cannibalism, which might have occurred in the far north during times of great famine.

Another story that I often heard growing up in the north was based on the legend of 'Windigo'. This creature was seen as a large spirit or being that roamed the land. Windigo struck terror into the hearts and minds of my people. This supernatural force was said to have the power to destroy an entire community. I have heard that certain people could call on the

"This creature was seen as a large spirit or being that roamed the land. Windigo struck terror into the hearts and minds of my people. This supernatural force was said to have the power to destroy an entire community."

Windigo to harm others who may have done them wrong. These people of power often called upon the Windigo to protect them and their families against enemies or to carry out revenge on someone. Not all stories of the Windigo end in violent death and destruction. There are also many stories of heroes who defeat this monster and drive it away. My Uncle Leo has a story of my great grandfather David who fell in disfavor with someone with power to call upon the Windigo. When the creature came, David had no fear and fought it off.

Another legend is Weesakijack, a being who lived before people and was able to communicate with animals, the trees and the earth. Part of the personality of Weesakijack had to do with his curiosity and sense of innocence. The legends of Weesakijack are usually humorous and are about the tricks and the games he plays with the animals and the earth. Healso holds special powers and is able to manipulate the world around him. A few stories explain how Weesakijack gave some animals their unique features like the beaver's flat tail, the woodpecker's red crest or the crow's black plumage. Weesakijack is also known to leave the world and he only returns once in a while to check up on how things are going.Weesakijack is still said to visit us from time to time.

Nobody has ever been able to find the creature that makes these great prints found on the Hudson Bay coast but all of these legends are revived with the sightings. You can take your pick. Perhaps this is a Wahchoskocho or Windigo. Who knows, maybe it is Weesakijack who has come back for a visit and is taking great pleasure and playing another trick on all of us.

CREE NATION OF
WEMINDJI

The Council and staff of the Cree Nation of Wemindji would like to

Congratulate

all of this year's graduates in Wemindji and throughout the Cree Nation.
We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all our young people to continue their education.

You are the future of the Cree Nation.

Well Done
Grads!

Best wishes from
the Mistissini
First Nation.

1st Annual Traditional
Pow Wow

Montreal, Québec "The Nation" and "The Eastern Door", two aboriginal newspapers are proud to invite the general public to our 19th Annual Traditional Pow Wow, on September 9 & 10, 2001. The Pow Wow will be held at the Bonsecours Island in the Old Port of Montreal. It will be held from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm Saturday, September 8, and from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sunday, September 9. The Pow Wow is a celebration for everyone to enjoy. It will feature dance, song, traditional fashions, family entertainment, arts, and food. There is also an arts and crafts market, children's activities, and demonstrating artists throughout the day. Visitors are strongly encouraged to participate in this peaceful and entertaining gathering. The Pow Wow provides an opportunity for local and tourist clientele to get to know Aboriginal nations through cultural and educational programming. Please join us in our grand event by celebrating traditions, pride and friendship.

Those interested in volunteering, dancing or performing, selling arts and crafts or food vending please contact Danielle at 514-272-3077 or e-mail us at montrealpow-wow@yahoo.com.

Job Opening

The Nation wants you!

To sell advertising in the Chibougamou and Val d'Or regions

Must be a self starter and willing to travel.

Knowledge of French is essential.

Fax resume to 514-278-9914
or phone 514-272-3077

the Nation

CLASSIFIEDS

We have free Park Safari tickets. Come and pick them up at our office while they last. Sorry no reservations. Maximum 4 tickets per family. 5505 Saint-Laurent #3018, Montreal.

101 – Birthdays

Happy Birthday to my loving caring mother Margaret Niquanicappo in Whapmagoostui, who's birthday is on June 30th, 2001. Love always, Mary Niquanicappo in Montreal. Love you Mom.

Happy 1st Birthday to Noel Masty's & Beverly George's son in Whapmagoostui. Take good care of him. Love Mary Niquanicappo. Hi Betsy I miss you & love you too.

A very special birthday wish goes to a wonderful person in my life, my wife Yannick Wapachee, turning 2? on July 9th, 2001. Happy Birthday and many more years to come, with love. Your husband Freddie Wapachee. XOXOXOXO

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to our Mother, Yannick Wapachee. She will be celebrating her birthday on July 9th, 2001. Happy Birthday Mom, we love you so much, with love your children, Elton John, Frederick and Geraldine Wapachee. XOXOXO

We would like to say a Happy Birthday to sweet little boy, Zachary Salt in Waskaganish. Celebrating his 1st birthday on July 9th, 2001, even if you don't blow out your 1st candle, make sure you wish something for us too. May your birthday be filled with lots of presents and a birthday cake. Happy Birthday, with love & hugs and kisses from Yannick, Freddie, Elton John, Frederick and Geraldine Wapachee in Nemaska.

Happy 42nd Birthday to my Joomshoom Norman Blacksmith, on June 24th. I love you so very much. From your huggable, lovable, kissable grand-daughter Emerald.

Happy 3rd Birthday to a special person, our son Bedfern Icebound St-Pierre, on the 4th of July. We hope this special day will be filled with happiness and for the years to come. You're a big baby now. We can see that you're gonna be tall like daddy. Remember son, that we love you very much. P.S. Be careful in every little thing you do. Have fun on your birthday. With love always. Mommy and Daddy, Lorraine and Claude.

Happy Birthday to June-Ashley Moar on June 18, 2001. I would like to thank you, my dear daughter, for all your help around the house and for your love that you have for us. Thank you for being yourself and good

luck to you in your final tests in school. So enjoy your special day because you are special too. All our love, Mom and Dad, Chiasibi From, Janie

400 – Events

This is a notice to the former students of Ste-Thérèse residential school, Mission St-Joseph, Fort George, Quebec. We have set the date for the reunion; August 1st – 5th, 2001. August 1st being the traveling day for everyone. Please find out who is your contact person in your community. By early next month, we need to know the number of people who will attend. For any information you can contact the following individuals: Margaret Sealhunter 819-855-2833 or 3068 / Linda Rednose 819-855-2844 # 4513 or 2435 / Therese Lameboy 819-855-2833 # 213 / Maggie Cox 819-855-2878 # 352 / Mary McKee 819-855-2833 # 206.

102 Weddings

Congratulations to our friend Tina Matthew and her husband Samuel Fireman on tying the knot on Friday June 15th, 2001. Your wedding day was so beautiful. We wish you the very best in the years ahead. We all had fun GAW! From your friends, Mary, Lorraine, Cheryl, Betsie, Ricky, Gracie and Patrick.

104 GRADUATIONS

A graduation wish to my son Percy Hester. I have this special time to greet you and express Congratulations and a wish for every happiness. And it's just wonderful to share, at least in some small way. The special joy and pleasure of your graduation day! Best wishes always! I love you very much. From mom, Hannah Hester.

Congratulations to my brother Percy Hester graduating from the class of 2001. Wishing you success in everything you're hoping for and a future filled with dreams come true. You did it. I'm proud of you bro. From your sister Patricia Hester.

Congratulations to our brother Percy Hester on your graduation. From Lorena, Patterson and Perry. PS Happy Birthday on August 30th. From Mom, Dad, Bros and sisters.

FELICITATION!!! To Miss Jessica Wapachee graduated from high School (ELMS) in Nemaska on June 22, 2001 You go Girl!!!!! Make your dreams come true!!!!! From Christie and Cindy

First of all I would like to say Wachiya and Congratulations to all the graduates of Cree Nation area "Class of 2001". Especially to my son Percy Hester, who started school at the age of 4. Who would have thought 12 years later you would be graduating from high school and receiving your diploma at the age of sweet 16. Wow! That's totally awesome. Well you did it, I'm so proud of you. Your hard work paid off. I love you very much. From Dad, Patterson Hester.

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Attawapiskat First Nation
Technical Services

NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF THE ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION RESIDING OFF-RESERVE

Attawapiskat First Nation advises that De Beers Canada Exploration Inc. is currently undertaking an Advanced Exploration Programme on the Victor Kimberlite 60 miles / 100 kilometres west of the community. Attawapiskat First Nation wishes to keep community members aware of its progress and plans. However, many of the First Nation members are living "off Reserve".

If you are a member of the Attawapiskat First Nation and you are living off reserve and you wish to receive periodic information updates on this programme, please ensure that the Band Office has your full name and current mailing address.

De Beers will be providing the Band Office with copies of a newsletter to be delivered to every household within the community. It will also be providing the Band Office with additional copies to mail to those community members who are interested and are living off reserve.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Liaison Coordinator,

Mike Gull, at either telephone number 705-997-2291 or facsimile 705-997-2305

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Chisasibi Centre Inc.
P.O. Box 330 Chisasibi
Quebec J0M 1E0
(819) 855-2838

Best wishes & Congratulations

to all our grads

James Bay Eeyou School Graduates

Paula Menarick • Bernice Tooktoo
Stanley Swallow • Patrick Sam
Ronnie Sealhunter • Patricia Scipio

Sabtuan Adult Education

Elizabeth Matches • Winnie Scipio

We are Proud of your Achievement

2nd Annual Cree Regional Fire Fighters Competitions

Dates:

July 20, 21, 22, 2001

Artwork: Mark MacDonald

Graphic Design & Layout by: INFO-JLC Enr. (819) 855-2315

Hosting Community:

Nemaska

Participating Communities:

Chisasibi
Eastmain
Mistissini
Nemaska
Oujé-Bougoumou
Waskaganish
Waswanipi
Wemindji
Whapmagoostui

Guest Speaker & V.I.P.'S:

D.I.A.N.D.
(Department of Indian Affairs & Northern Development)

P.S.F.
(Pompiers sans frontières)

C.R.A. / G.C.C.Q.
(Cree Regional Authority / Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec)

N.F.N.
(Nemaska First Nation)

Major Sponsors:

D.I.A.N.D.
(Department of Indian Affairs & Northern Development)

C.R.A.
(Cree Regional Authority)

N.F.N.
(Nemaska First Nation)

Events:

Nemaska Firehall - Grand Opening
Individual Team Competitions
Banquet
Award Ceremonies

Other Special Events:

T.B.A.

Fire Hoses donated by:

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Nozzles, Trophies, Plaques & Medals provided by:

Aéro-Feu Ltée
(Firefighting Equipment Needs)

For information, contact:

Matthew Wapachee
(819) 673-2442
(819) 673-2343
George Swallow
Fax (819) 673-2000

THIS IS AN ALCOHOL & DRUG FREE EVENT.
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AUTOMOBILES

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President's Prize

to the team at Hardy Ringuette Automobiles for the year 2000.

With pride in this recognition, we would like to thank each of the members of this exceptional team, who offer us daily their best in the search for the summit of quality in customer service.

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Photo: Paul Brindamour